

HOUSE RESEARCH

Bill Summary

FILE NUMBER: H.F. 702
Version: As introduced

DATE: March 7, 2015

Authors: Norton and others

Subject: Foreign language proficiency certificates and seals

Analyst: Lisa Larson

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Overview

Removes Minnesota world language proficiency high achievement certificates from the statutes. Changes the levels of language proficiency high school graduates must demonstrate to receive a state bilingual or multilingual seal. Establishes gold and platinum seals. Directs MnSCU to: recognize students who receive a seal as meeting system foreign language requirements; and award academic credits commensurate with the foreign language proficiency demonstrated by a student who receives a state seal. Establishes a task force to make recommendations to the legislature on assessing students' proficiency in foreign languages for which American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages' (ACTFL) language proficiency tests assessments are not available.

Section

- 1 **Foreign language and culture; proficiency certificates.** (a), (d) Strike the language on the Minnesota world language proficiency high achievement certificates.
- 2 **State bilingual and multilingual seals.** (a) Establishes voluntary bilingual and multilingual seals to recognize high school graduates who demonstrate an advanced-low level or an intermediate-high level of functional native proficiency in listening, speaking, reading, and writing on the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages' (ACTFL) language proficiency tests or on equivalent assessments in one or more languages in addition to English, including American sign language.

(c) Makes a high school graduate who demonstrates an intermediate-high level of functional native proficiency eligible to receive the state's gold seal and a high school graduate who demonstrates an advanced-low level of functional native proficiency eligible to receive the

Section

state's platinum seal. Makes high school graduates who demonstrate the requisite language proficiency in multiple languages in addition to English eligible for a state multilingual gold or platinum seal.

(f) Allows a school district or charter school to award community service credit to a student who demonstrates the requisite language proficiency in a language in addition to English.

(g) Directs the education commissioner to list on the department Web site those assessments that are equivalent to the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages' (ACTFL) language proficiency tests.

(h) Directs MnSCU institutions to recognize a student who receives a state bilingual or multilingual gold seal as meeting one-half of the system's foreign language requirements and a student who receives a state bilingual or multilingual platinum seal as meeting all the system's foreign language requirements. Requires MnSCU institutions to award academic credits commensurate to the foreign language proficiency demonstrated by a student who receives a state bilingual or multilingual gold or platinum seal and allows MnSCU to award credits to a student who receives a world language proficiency certificate. Encourages the University of Minnesota to award students foreign language academic credits consistent with this paragraph.

Makes this section effective for the 2015-2016 school year and later.

- 3** **Advisory task force on assessing students' proficiency in foreign languages for which ACTFL assessments are not available.** (a) Establishes an advisory task force to consider and recommend to the legislature how to: assess students' foreign language proficiency when ACTFL assessments are available and when they are not available; create curriculum, instruction, and assessment guidelines for foreign languages for which no written form exists; train individuals qualified to assess students' foreign language proficiency; and curriculum, instruction, and assessments for heritage and indigenous languages and less commonly taught foreign languages.
- (b) Directs named entities to appoint a member to the advisory task force, allows task force members to appoint additional members, and allows task force members to seek expert advice.
- (c) Directs the education commissioner to provide support services upon request.
- (d) Makes task force members' terms and other task force matters subject to the statutory section governing advisory councils and committees. Allows the education commissioner to reimburse task force members from the department's current operating budget but does not allow task force members to be compensated.
- (e) Directs the education commissioner, on the task force's behalf, to submit the task force recommendations to the legislature by February 1, 2016.